

EST. 1947

The BIRD CALL

Spring 2024

Newsletter of the Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.

BRSS Annual Meeting June 6

By Sandy Morrissey

Five Islands Park will be the beautiful setting for our Annual Meeting, thanks again to the very generous hospitality of the New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation. The business meeting begins at 6:30 P.M., with an optional guided bird walk at 6:00 P.M. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with other members. Wine and cheese plus other light refreshments will be served. All BRSS members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Our Honoree is Carol Sommerfield, Ph.D



It was easy to select an honoree this year. As soon as the topic came up, Carol was nominated. BRSS has been involved with Carol over the past three years, providing grants to purchase native plants for demonstration native pollinator gardens in Greenburgh and Ardsley, of which she is the driving force.

Carol has a keen interest in the natural world and ecology. She started a native plant garden in 1995, well before anyone knew what that was or why it was important. In 2021 she founded and now chairs the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway and since 2021 has performed over 100 free and in-depth native garden consultations for homeowners to jump start their transition to native gardening and sustainable landscape practices. From 2022 to 2024 Carol designed and installed five large public pollinator gardens in the Town of Greenburgh, which are lovingly maintained by dedicated volunteers. This year she is adding two more demonstration gardens at Harts Brook Park, and BRSS is happily funding the purchase of the native plants again.

She founded and chairs the Native Plant and Ecotype Group of Westchester and Connecticut. She is a certified water steward through CRISP (Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership) and is the Chair of the Lake Muskoday Lake Ecology Committee. She has a second home on Lake Muskoday and is the official Lake Manager.

Carol is a member of the Ardsley Village Climate Advisory Committee and the Ardsley Climate Smart Community/Clean Energy Community Taskforce that worked to earn Ardsley Bronze status in 2022.

In addition to her passion and efforts promoting native plant gardens, she is an award-winning artist. Take a look at www.frogleapgallery.com. Most extraordinarily, last year Carol held a solo art exhibit at the Greenburgh Library and earned \$15,000 on the sale of her paintings, all of which she donated to local environmental, food security, and affordable housing organizations! BRSS Audubon was the fortunate recipient of a sizable portion of this gift. This spring through the fall, she is holding another art exhibit at the Ardsley Town Hall Gallery. Again, BRSS will be a beneficiary of her sales.

We couldn't be honoring a more deserving, dedicated, and generous-hearted environmentalist!

Election of Officers and Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS members will be asked to vote to approve the following officers for a two-year term: Leslie Brill, President; Doug Bloom, Vice President; Diane Morrison, Secretary; and Jeff Zuckerman, Treasurer.

The membership will also be asked to vote for the slate of Directors for the Class of 2027: Clare Gorman, Ted Kavanagh, Susie Williams, Jeff Zuckerman and new to the board, Emily Sullivan. Emily is a serious conservationist and avid birder. In addition to our BRSS bird walks, she became a bluebird nestbox monitor three years ago. She is helping found Ward Acres Preserve and participates in many of Cornell's citizen science programs.

We hope to see all BRSS members and friends at Five Islands Park in New Rochelle on June 6.



Five Islands Park

Photo by Clare Gorman

BRSS AUDUBON

**P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583
www.brssaudubon.org**

**Board of Directors
and Committee Members**

*Officers**PRESIDENT*

Sandra Morrissey 391-3695
sandym10530@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Bloom 834-5203

TREASURER

Jeff Zuckerman 395-3083
jeffzuckerman2000@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Diane Morrison 725-7351

*Committees**MEMBERSHIP*

Clare Gorman 395-3083
claregorman@yahoo.com

FIELD TRIPS

Doug Bloom 834-5203
Neil Powell 437- 8348

CONSERVATION

Maria Albano 420-8521
Leslie Brill 400-9136
Bernie Conway 413-210-0041
Johnny Flores 917-345-8698
Ted Kavanagh 646-334-1775
Henry May 667-6144
Erin Provenzano 845-531-8109
Vern Schramm 576-2578
Susan Williams 917-385-9727

HOSPITALITY

Diane Morrison 725-7351

PROGRAMS

Doug Bloom 834-5203
Leslie Brill 400-9136
Bernie Conway 413-210-0041
Erin Provenzano 845-531-8109

NEWSLETTER

Clare Gorman, Editor
claregorman@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

Ted Kavanagh 646-334-1775

*Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.
is a chapter of the National Audubon Society
serving the communities of
Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale,
Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New
Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale, and Tuckahoe*

Our Bird Seed Sale

Thank you to all the customers who bought birdseed through our February seed sale. This is our main fundraiser during the year and we appreciate your continued support. Our profit on the second seed sale was \$5549. Some of the proceeds from seed sales go towards producing this newsletter, our free programs and much more. The total profit for the two seed sales this year was \$13,743 and the donations for the year were \$4,933.

Birdseed Chairman
Doug Bloom

We would like to acknowledge the people who gave donations during the seed sale this year:

Louise Abel, Maria Albano, Paul Basch, Mary Alice Becker, Julie Behounek, Doug Bloom, David Blumenfeld, Sheryl Breuninger, Leslie Brill, Steve Cadenhead, Ernestine Colombo, Cathy Corbin, Julia De Carlo, Christine Denton, Gail Doolin, Robert Everett, Cece Fabbro, Margaret Falk, Robert Farrell, Clare Gorman, Kathryn Heintz, Edmond Herve, Lois Hertzberg, Marjut Herzog, Emita Hill, Tina Hoerenz, Phil Horner, Ted Kavanagh, Debra Kenney, Steven Kessler, Joselyn Kleinman, Ruth Kotecha, Marilyn Krizansky, Stephen Landon, Kelly Mac Pherson, Robert Maffucci, Marianne Makman, Barbara Marciani, Valerie Marini, Dave Margulis, Michele Mc Evoy, Michelle Mc Nally, Scott Mellis, Sandy Morrissey, Wendy Murphy, Ingrid Nardoni, Francine Naughton, Suzi Oppenheimer, Dorothy Patterson, Alice Pernick, Katie Pettus, Donald Pinals, Neil Powell, Karen Raggins, Jamie Randol, James Richy, Barbara Roca, Tracy Ronnermann, Ehud Rybak, Susan Riemer Sacks, Yusuf Salim, Vern Schramm, Joan Shapiro, Joan Sharp, Sheldrake Environmental Center, Summer Shetenhelm, Adrienne Skinner, Carol Sommerfield, Mark Sotsky, Barbara Spiridon, Jean Stephenson, Marc Straussberg, Vicky Sturner, Richard Tietjen, Odette Tin-Aung, Ellen Valle, Marilyn Varley, Caroline Sutton, Toni Viscio, Jan Von Mehren, Lisa Wagner, Jay Waks, Beatrice Weinberger, Joan Weissman, William Wertheim, Sidney Witter, Josette Zichello, Jeff Zuckerman

Emily Sullivan Bio – new BRSS board member June 2024

I am a lifetime bird lover, and became a more serious bird watcher about 8 years ago. I have my masters in education and taught for 10 years. After I had my 2 daughters (now 26 and 28) I became the leader of each of their Girl Scout troops (a total of 15 years). Our troops were involved in many conservation projects over the years. We started to tend a plot at the Ward Acres Community Garden in 2009- donating all of our crops to HOPE Soup Kitchen. After my Girl Scouts moved on, I remained at the garden and joined the Steering Committee. I was on the committee for 5 years, and recently resigned in order to turn my energies to the formation of the Ward Acres Preserve, where I will focus on wild life habitats-specifically birds. This is my third year monitoring the bluebird houses. As Sandy's helper I am determined to have bluebirds nest in Ward Acres, but the tree swallows always make me happy! I am also a member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and I take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count as well as Feeder Watch. I also join in bird walks in Central Park with the Wild Bird Fund of NYC. Today Sandy and I saw a Fox Sparrow, which is a lifer for me, and I had chills from head to toe. I think that about says it all.



Bird Photo of the Week

By Ted Kavanagh

BRSS launched a new weekly feature in January we're calling "Bird of the Week," where we are asking our members and the broader birding community to submit their recent photos of birds in the area, one of which we'll select for distribution each Thursday morning. The deadline for submissions is mid-day Tuesday each week for photos taken over the prior seven days.

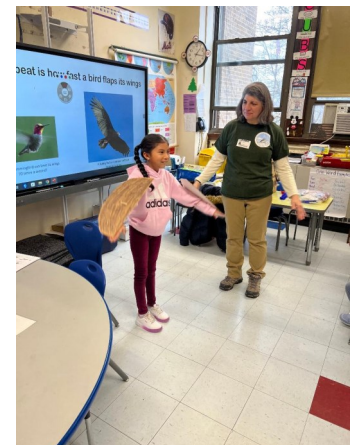
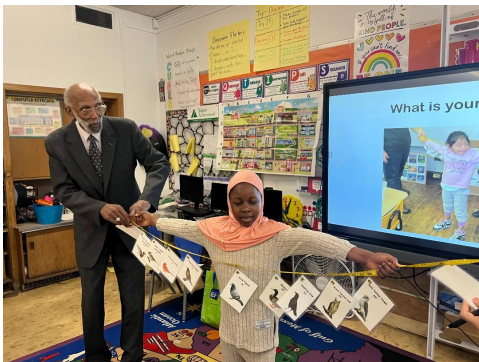
We're hoping the photos, besides being fun to look at each week, will showcase the incredible diversity of birds we have in our area, and encourage our membership to check out some of the birding hotspots we highlight. Lower Westchester is blessed in being on the Atlantic Flyway, giving us many migratory birds in addition to our year-round residents, and we have access to unusually diverse avian habitat within one- or two-hours' drive. The 52 photos we'll post over the year will sample many of the avian families we see and celebrate the talented photography of our membership. As summarized in the table below, through mid-April, we've featured nine bird orders in 10 locations, and contributions from 16 photographers.

Bird Order	Species	Location	Photographer
Passeriformes	American Robin	Greenburgh	Kristina Zagreda
	Tufted Titmouse	Hartsdale	Sandy Morrissey
	Dark-eyed Junco	Greenburgh	Alison Gilmore
	Eastern Bluebird	Carmel	John Sprague
	Purple Finch	Pleasantville	Richard Leonard
	Carolina Wren	Bronx	Jack Rothman
Accipitriformes	Bald Eagle	Verplanck	Ada Bar
	Red-tailed Hawk	Rye	Nadia Valla
Anseriformes	Hooded Merganser	Bronxville	Kevin Kelly
	Mallard	Pleasantville	Iris Cohen
Falconiformes	Merlin	Hartsdale	Laura Sullivan
Podicipediformes	Pied-billed Grebe	Bronx	Gerry McGee
Pelicaniformes	Great Egret	Mamaroneck	Dan Karson
Charadriiformes	Killdeer	Rye	Troy Gorodess
Piciformes	Red-headed Woodpecker	Croton-on-Hudson	Avril Armstrong
Suliformes	Northern Gannet	Bronx	Ted Kavanagh

We're now in the midst of spring migration, providing many great photo ops of very colorful birds, but we look forward to seeing your photographs all year long, so keep sending them in. Thanks to everyone who has submitted photos so far, also including: Barry Cordell, Christina Black, Drew Brennan, Johnny Flores, Kate Elmore, Mark Leach, Nara Berlin, Richard Armstrong, and Vern Schramm.

Continue to page 4 to see all the winning photos. Try to identify each bird.

Our Fabulous Mount Vernon School Bird Program





FIELD TRIPS



Please Contact Doug Bloom at (914) 834-5203 for info or to register. **LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE.**

May 5, Sunday - Central Park

Meet at 7:30 AM at 77th St. at statue across from Museum of Natural History. Easy 3+ mile walk. Restroom available. Will be looking for spring migrants such as warblers, orioles and others.

May 11, Saturday - Central Park/ North Woods

Meet at 7:30 AM at 103rd St. and Central Park West. Looking for spring migrants.

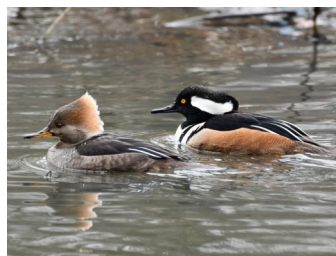
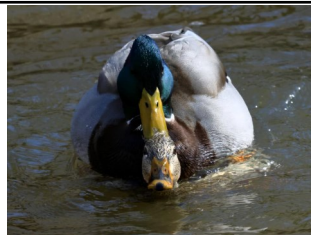
May 18, Saturday - Doodletown Road

Meet at 8 AM at Doodletown Road. Moderate 2 - 4 mile uphill walk with some uneven ground. Best place to see Cerulean Warblers nesting and other migrants.

May 25, Saturday - White Memorial Park

Easy walk. Restroom available. Meet at 8 AM in parking lot at Visitors Center lot. We will be looking for early migrants such as warblers and other songbirds.

Bird of the Week Photos





Mount Vernon
BIRD DAY
 Saturday, June 8
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Willson's Woods Park
 Sponsored by Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Society

Learn about the birds in the neighborhood with a nature scavenger hunt, bird walks by the river, various hands-on activity stations and a live bird demonstration.
 Live Bird Demo 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by Greenburgh Nature Center
Free | Rain or Shine

Westchester County
 NATIONALLY ACCREDITED
PARKS
 WESTCHESTER COUNTY




Hope you can join us June 8th for this new BRSS event featuring the birds of Mt. Vernon. It promises to be fun and educational for the whole family. Look for us in Willson Wood's Park by the picnic tables near the Hutchinson River.

Thanks to Tuckahoe Girl Scout Brownie troop 2642 for making 3 new homes for the bluebirds. The boxes will be placed in a park near their school and at Twin Lakes Park, near where they have their meetings. Let's hope bluebirds find them, but if not, other native cavity nesters will be happy to have them.



**Bronx River-Sound Shore
Audubon Society, Inc.**

(formerly Scarsdale Audubon Society)
P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 7033



Stay in touch with BRSS Audubon in the following ways:



Visit our website
brssaudubon.org



Find us on Facebook
Search Bronx River
Sound Shore Audubon
Society

Join!

Support our environmental mission and receive our newsletter with information about all our programs and field trips. Annual dues are **just \$20** and include membership in the National Audubon Society, plus its extraordinary magazine. Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

***NEW MEMBERS form only. Please RENEW membership online at www.audubon.org**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make \$20 check to National Audubon Society and mail to:

BRSS Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

C0ZR080Z